

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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P 200838Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8664

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 5897

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP, SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF: SALZBERG PROGRAM

REF: MANILA 5857

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF HIRC HUMAN RIGHTS
CONSULTANT DR. JOHN SALZBERG WHO VISITED PHILIPPINES WITH
CODEL WOLFF APRIL 17-20.

2. ON ARRIVAL EARLY EVENING APRIL 17, SALZBERG, WHO WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF ON ALL CALLS, PROCEEDED DIRECTLY TO
HOME OF SENATOR JOSE DIOKNO, LEADING OPPOSITIONIST AND
CHAIRMAN OF PHILIPPINE CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION. ALSO PRESENT
FOR DISCUSSIONS AND DINNER WERE FATHER JOHN DOWLING (MARYKNOLL),
SISTER HELEN GRAHM (MARYKNOLL MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR
RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS DETAINEE COMMITTEE), MR. DENIS MURPHY
(FORMER JESUIT WITH ASIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE) AND MRS.
DE LA TORRE (MOTHER OF PROMINENT DETAINEE FATHER EDICIO DE LA
TORRE). DURING NEARLY THREE-HOUR DISCUSSION WHICH CENTERED
ON PROBLEMS OF DETAINEES, ESPECIALLY TORTURE, SALZBERG WAS
GIVEN COPY OF NEW AMRSP PUBLICATION ON POLITICAL DETAINEES
(SEE MANILA 5706), AS WELL AS NAMES OF RECENT TORTURE
VICTIMS. DIOKNO TOLD SALZBERG THAT CONSTABULARY ANTI-
NARCOTICS UNIT (CANU), WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS PARTIALLY
FUNDED BY USG, WAS EXTREMELY ACTIVE IN ROUNDING UP
POLITICAL PRISONERS. THERE WAS ALSO DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS
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OF TONDO SQUATTERS AND ORGANIZED LABOR, PARTICULARLY
STRIKING WORKERS AT ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, INC. (EEI).

3. SALZBERG PARTICIPATED IN PROGRAM WITH CODEL WOLFF,
INCLUDING EMBASSY BRIEFINGS AND CALL AT MALACANANG APRIL 18.
AFTERNOON HE MET WITH BISHOP LABAYEN AND FATHER LOUIS
HECHANOVA OF NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF SOCIAL ACTION (NASA)

AND DENIS MURPHY. LABAYEN ARGUED THAT GOP'S DEVELOPMENT MODEL PRECLUDED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND THAT NEEDS OF PEOPLE WERE SUBORDINATED TO SCHEMES OF TECHNOCRATS. HECHANOVA CLAIMED THAT GOP'S BOAST THAT PHILIPPINES OFFERS CHEAP AND DOCILE LABOR FORCE TO POTENTIAL MULTINATIONAL INVESTORS CONDEMNED PHILIPPINE WORKERS TO CONTINUING STATE OF INEQUALITY. AFTER AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION, SALZBERG HAD SUPPER WITH BERNARD WIDEMAN (WP STRINGER), BUT NO MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE DISCUSSED.

4. SALZBERG BREAKFASTED WITH CARDINAL SIN, BISHOP ALMARIO, SECRETARY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, AND VISITING CATHOLIC CONFERENCE STAFFER J. BRYAN HEHIR MORNING APRIL 19. DISCUSSION WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFUSE. SIN SAID HE WOULD RAISE ALL VERIFIED TORTURE CASES WITH AUTHORITIES. CARDINAL ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT MARCOS EVENTUALLY LIFTING MARTIAL LAW. SIN CLAIMED RECENT PROBLEMS OF CHURCH, ESPECIALLY IN DAVAO AND BUKIDNON, DUE TO PANAMIN. BISHOP ALMARIO DEFENDED IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW AND ARGUED IT STILL JUSTIFIED BECAUSE OF COMMUNIST MENACE, LINE MARCOS TOOK WITH CODEL WOLFF DAY BEFORE. SIN EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION MARCOS HAD STRESSED NECESSITY OF CLOSE US-PHILIPPINE TIES IN TALK WITH WOLFF, CLAIMING ACCOUNT OF DISCUSSION IN DAILY EXPRESS MOST ENCOURAGING STORY HE HAD SEEN IN HIS FOUR YEARS IN MANILA. SIN TOLD SALZBERG CONTINUED PRESENCE OF US BASES ESSENTIAL TO PHILIPPINE SECURITY.

5. SALZBERG MET WITH MALAYBALAY BISHOP FRANCISCO CLAVER
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AFTER MEETING WITH SIN. CLAVER SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST INJUSTICE. HE DEPLORED LACK OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN COUNTRY AND GOVERNMENT INSENSITIVITY TO PROBLEMS OF POOR. CLAVER SAID THERE WERE PROBABLY FEWER CASES OF DETAINEE TORTURE NOW, BUT THAT CASES WHICH DID OCCUR WERE ESPECIALLY SHOCKING BECAUSE OF GOP DENIALS OF TORTURE AND CLAIMS IT PUNISHES PERPETRATORS.

6. AFTER SESSION WITH CLAVER, SALZBERG PROCEEDED TO ZONE I TONDO ORGANIZATION (ZOTO) WHERE HE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL TONDO SQUATTERS AND EEI STRIKERS. MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY FATHER JOHN DOWLING. SQUATTERS OBJECTED TO GOP PLANS FOR DEVELOPING AREA, DEPLOING GOVERNMENT'S INSENSITIVITY TO THEIR NEEDS AND PROTESTING WORLD BANK INVOLVMENT. SALZBERG PROMISED RAISE MATTER WITH WORLD BANK IN WASHINGTON. STRIKING EEI WORKERS ARGUED THAT THEY WERE ASKING FOR ADJUSTMENT IN THEIR INCOMES WHICH WOULD COST COMPANY MERE SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS A YEAR, WHEN COMPANY MAKING NET PROFITS

OF 25 MILLION PESOS OVER LAST TWO YEARS. STRIKERS ALSO
CHARGED HARRASSMENT OF THEIR LEADERS BY MILITARY AND
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR COLLUSION WITH MANAGEMENT.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8665

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 5897

7. SALZBERG THEN MET WITH SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA AT
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. HE QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT LETTERS ON
TORTURE TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER FROM BICUTAN DETAINEES, AS
WELL AS PEDRO CASE. MENDOZA, WHO PROMISED TO SEND
SALZBERG PC REPORT ON PEDRO CASE, ARGUED ISOLATED INSTANCES
OF TORTURE DID NOT CONSTITUTE GOP POLICY. HE ALSO ASSAILED
UNFAIRNESS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT. MENDOZA ALSO
MADE FAIRLY STANDARD DEFENSE OF MARTIAL LAW AT LUNCHEON
WHICH FOLLOWED MEETING.

8. SALZBERG SPENT ABOUT 45 MINUTES WITH SENATOR AQUINO
AT FORT BONIFICIO AFTER LUNCHEON. AQUINO DID MOST OF THE
TALKING. HE ARGUED THAT WHILE MARCOS WAS PREPARED TO
AMNESTY INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH OF THOUSANDS
OF PHILIPPINE SOLDIERS AND AN ACTIVE COLLABORATOR WITH
FOREIGN POWER (NUR MISUARI), HE (AQUINO) WAS LANGUISHING.
AQUINO SAID THAT MANY OF CHARGES HE FACED BASED ON EX
POST FACTO LAWS AND THAT HE WAS VICTIM OF ATTAINDER
PROCEEDINGS. AQUINO SAID QUITE FORCEFULLY THAT NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENED, "MARCOS WOULD NOT BREAK HIM," AND THAT HE
WOULD SPEAK OUT THE MINUTE HE WAS GIVEN HIS FREEDOM.
HE SUGGESTED WRYLY THAT THIS WAS ONE REASON WHY HE MIGHT
BE IN PRISON THE NEXT TIME SALZBERG VISITED. AQUINO SAID
PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM A GREAT INSPIRATION
TO HIM AND OTHER DETAINEES.

10. FROM FORT BONIFICIO SALZBERG PROCEEDED TO BICUTAN
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REHABILITATION CENTER WHERE HE MET WITH FATHERS EDICIO DE LA TORRE, JOSE NACU AND NEILIA SENCHO (FORMER QUEEN OF THE PACIFIC). SALZBERG WAS PERMITTED TO SPEAK WITH THEM PRIVATELY. THEY SUGGESTED HE TALK TO RECENT TORTURE VICTIMS AND GAVE NAMES. DE LA TORRE CHARGED THAT TORTURE WAS STILL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE, ESPECIALLY IN SAFE HOUSES, WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE STILL BEING USED DESPITE GOP DENIALS. SALZBERG THEN INTERVIEWED MARIA ANG, FORMER UP STUDENT REPORTEDLY TORTURED IN AUGUST 1976, SATUR OCAMPO, FORMER JOURNALIST REPORTEDLY TORTURED IN JANUARY 1976, AND SEVERAL OTHERS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR IN CHAPTER II OF POLITICAL DETAINEES IN THE PHILIPPINES BOOK II (SEE MANILA 5706). DURING VISITS TO BONIFICIO OUANO OF THE COMMAND FOR ADMINISTRATION FOR DETAINEES. OUANO ADMITTED THERE HAD BEEN CASES OF TORTURE, BUT CLAIMED THESE HAD ALL TAKEN PLACE IN SAFE HOUSES AND PERPETRATORS HAD BEEN "BOYS FROM THE INTELLIGENCE ESTABLISHMENT." HE WAS UNABLE TO STATE HOW MANY MILITARY HAD BEEN PUNISHED FOR DETAINEE MALTREATMENT.

11. COMMENT: AS FAR AS DETAINEES CONCERNED, GOP PROVIDED EXCELLENT COOPERATION, ALTHOUGH SALZBERG REGRETTED HE COULD NOT HAVE MORE TIME AT BICUTAN BECAUSE OF DEPARTING TIME FOR TAIPEI. SALZBERG SEEMED VISIBLY MOVED BY PLIGHT OF BICUTAN DETAINEES, PARTICULARLY REPORTED TORTURE VICTIMS, AND SAID HE WILL BE WRITING SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA ABLUT THESE CASES.

12. FOREGOING DRAFTED SUBSEQUENT TO CODEL'S DEPARTURE FOR TAIPEI AND WAS NOT REPEAT NOT CLEARED WITH SALZBERG OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF CODEL.
SULLIVAN

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